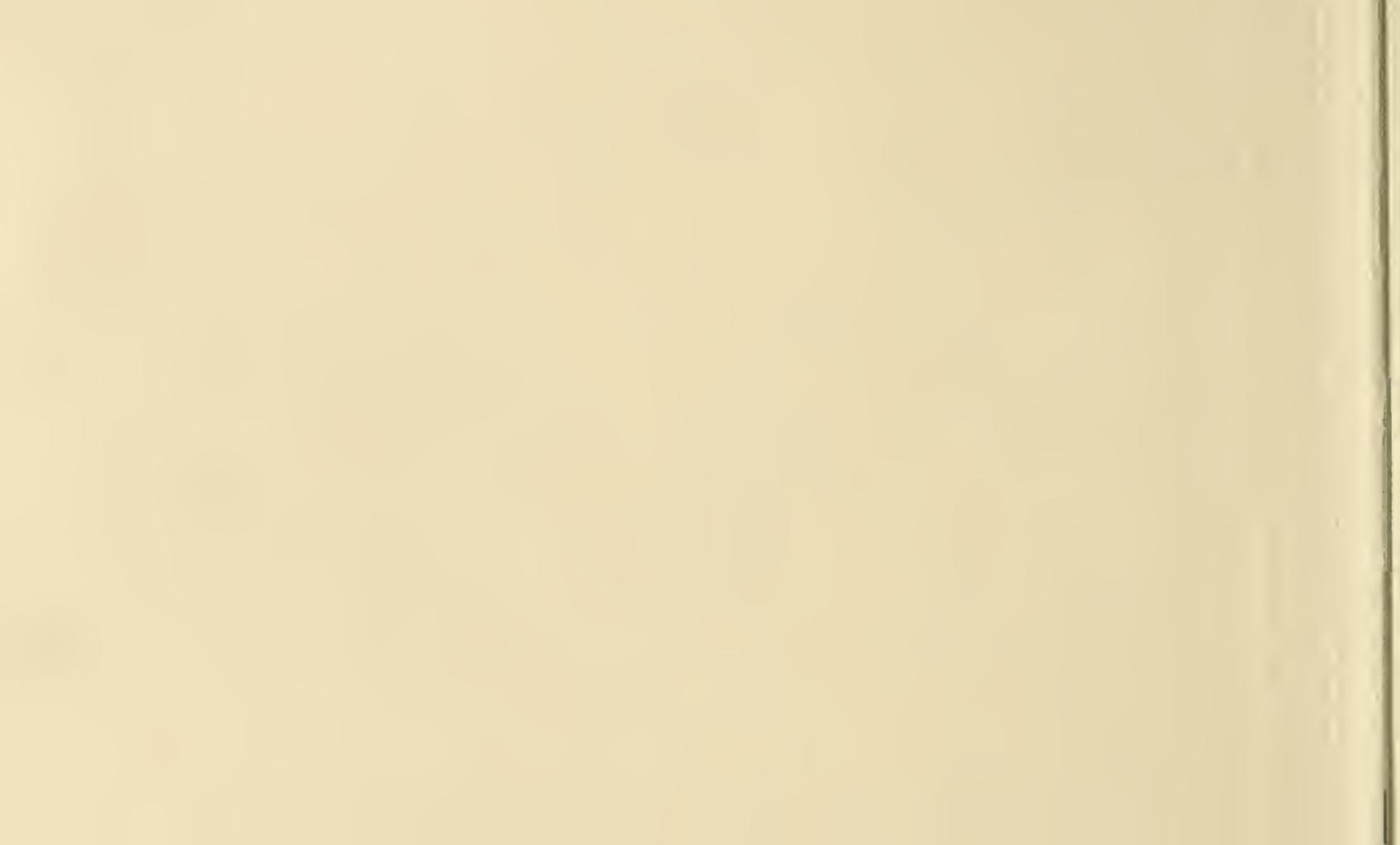


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CONSUMER TIPS > >

KINDS OF FIBER

1. Broomcorn: Most common type; best quality has mixture of curly and rough fibers, comparatively few split ends, and these splits should be short. Keep dry.
2. Palm fiber: More expensive than broomcorn; last longer; more satisfactory because fibers wear down evenly and do not flip up dust so much; dip in water once a week.
 - a. Chinese palm is one of best, cheapest, and most durable of broom fibers.
 - b. Metal jacket holds fibers, is attached to handle.
 - c. Weight - lightest is most satisfactory for home.

(over)

- d. Length of fiber - longest will wear longest.
- 3. Tampico fiber: Tough vegetable fibers, 4 inches long, set in hardwood block; more efficient and durable than broomcorn; more expensive than broomcorn and palm fiber.

HANDLES

- 1. Better brooms have handles of maple or pine, not birch.
- 2. Handles to be smooth; enameled, shellacked, or varnished.

GENERAL RULE

Never rest brooms on fiber end. Either hang or rest them on the handle.

(Information from "Housecleaning Management and Methods,"
Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.)

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